

## REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for courtesies extended during two telephone conversations concerning possible claim amendments in the above identified application.

Allowable claims 22-24, 33, 36 -37, 41-43, 45-47, 50-57, 67-69, 72, 73, and 76-79 have been amended to incorporate the limitations of the base and intervening claims. In particular, claims 22, 33, 36, 41, 45, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 60, 61, 62, 67, 70 have been rewritten in independent form. The remaining allowable claims depend directly or indirectly from these independent claims. Although the Office Action does not specify claims 26 -27 as having allowable subject matter, these claims depend from allowable claim 22 and are also in condition for allowance. In addition, newly added claims 89-90 include the counter bore feature of allowable claim 22, newly added claims 91-101 depend directly or indirectly from allowable claim 22, and claims 102-108 include the counter bore feature of allowable claim 22. These claims are all in condition for allowance.

The Office Action relies on the ferrule 57 of Eppenbach to disclose a body. Ferrule 57 of Eppenbach does not constitute a body.

Claims 19, 58, 80 and 83 have been amended to more clearly recite the surface mount feature of these claims. Support for this amendment is found at least at page 8, lines 4-10 of the specification. As amended, claims 19, 58, 80 and 83 each recite that at least a portion of the body has a solid exterior surface and that the resilient member is attached to a location on the solid exterior surface. In contrast, ferrule 57 of Eppenbach is open to form a cavity. Thus the structure disclosed in Eppenbach cannot provide a surface mount for the resilient member where the first end of the resilient member is attached to the solid exterior surface of the body and the second end of the resilient member is connect to a strut.

As disclosed in col. 4, lines 41-50, Eppenbach requires ferrule 57 because it is a tent pole system, unrelated to the structure of the present claims. In Eppenbach pole section 49 includes ferrule 57, which is a hollow ring about half of which is connected preferably by an adhesive, over an elongated member or rod 55 to form a socket or cavity 59 at an end 60 of

pole 49. When the end portion 69 of pole section 47 is received in cavity 59, spring 71, which extends over the outer surfaces of the poles 47 and 49, resiliently retains the end portion in the cavity. Thus, Eppenbach does not disclose the structure recited in claims 19, 58, 80 and 83.

In view of the above the claims are in condition for allowance and early notice of same is earnestly solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date Dec. 10, 2003

By Brian J. McNamara

FOLEY & LARDNER

Customer Number: 22428

Telephone: (202) 672-5416

Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

Brian J. McNamara

Attorney for Applicant

Registration No. 32,789